

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

November 8, 2000  
City Council Chambers  
City of La Quinta  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Michael Smith at 10:00 a.m. on November 8, 2000, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present: Mary Ann E. Martin Andreas, Don Cox, Gary Johnson, Michael Smith, Brenda Soulliere, and Nancy Wright.

Absent: Elvera Codekas

**2. Staff Present**

Alex Alimohammadi, Jeff Allred, Adnan Al-Sarabi, Sheila Ault, John Carmona, Suhas Chakraborty, Liann Chavez, Orlando Gonzalez, Beatrice Griffey, Phil Gruenberg, Abdi Haile, Danny McClure, Alex McKay, Robert Perdue, Judy Reed, Rex Sharp, Charles Springer, Joan Stormo, Kristie Taylor, Hilda Vasquez, Ben Zabinsky, and Nadim Zeywar.

**3. Others Present**

Sally Causley, Rainbow Soap Bubble  
A.P. Fisichelli, Montgomery Watson  
Chuck Friedley, Property Owner  
Dottie Friedley, Property Owner  
Lori Gualco, Palm Springs Landscape Company  
Robert Hargreaves, Salton Sea Authority  
Alan Harrell, Coachella Valley Water District  
Celia Hillings, Terra Organics  
Randy Hines, City of El Centro  
Ron Helm, Lowney Associates  
Dan Lorgo, Palm Springs Landscape Company  
Gary Morris  
Janelle Morris  
Karen O'Haire, State Water Resources Control Board  
Gregory O'Hara, Thelen Reid and Priest LLP  
Deems Padjett, Palm Springs Landscape Company  
Steve Wade, Meaders Cleaners  
Lewis Zettel, Terra Organics

**4. Minutes of Meeting of September 13, 2000**

MOTION: Ms. Andreas moved, Mr. Cox seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the minutes be approved as submitted.

**5. Resolution No. 00-136 Expressing Appreciation to Gary Morris**

MOTION: Ms. Andreas moved, Ms. Soulliere seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the resolution be approved.

**6. Resolution No. 00-141 Supporting Groundwater Guardian Program at Desert Hot Springs High School**

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Ms. Andreas seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the resolution be approved.

**7. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements**

NPDES Permits

00-120 Terra Organics International, Inc., Owner/Operator, Demonstration Salton Sea Treatment Facility – Salton City, Imperial County

Waste Discharge Requirements

00-115 The Southern California Gas Company, Owner/Operator, Blythe Compressor Station, Evaporation Ponds, Infiltration Basin and Sumps – Blythe, Riverside County

00-132 United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colorado River Agency, Trustee for Colorado River Indian Tribes, River Properties, Operator, River Reflections Mobile Home Park – Northeast of Earp, San Bernardino County

00-138 Coachella Sanitary District, Owner/Operator, for Irrigation of Pasturelands and Fields – Coachella, Riverside County

00-140 Santa Fe Pacific Properties, Inc., Land Owner, OMYA (California) Inc., Operator, Group “C” Mining Waste Management Facility, Waste Management Unit No. 4 – Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County

00-139 Rescission/Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements

90-055 Tosco Distribution Station No. 0179 - El Centro, Imperial County

00-051 FPL Energy Operating Services, Inc., East Mesa Geothermal, Plant East Mesa (PEM Units 1 and 2) - South of Holtville, Imperial County

MOTION: Mr. Cox moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motioned carried unanimously that Orders No. 00-115, 00-120, 00-132, 00-138, 00-139, and 00-140, including the errata, be adopted.

**8. Schedule of Board Meetings for Calendar Year 2001**

The schedule was approved as submitted. Dates are subject to change.

**9. Compliance with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-145, Meaders Cleaners**

Lori Gualco, Esq., and Greg O'Hara, Esq., appeared before the Board on behalf of the responsible parties to provide a status report on cleanup activities required in Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-145. Mr. William Nagle, Esq., who is familiar with contaminated dry cleaning sites, has been appointed as a Special Master. Since his appointment, Mr. Nagle has conducted a mediation session with the real parties and insurance carriers, conducted a scoping session with the consultants, and issued an order to the real parties' insurance companies requiring the payment of \$9,500 into a trust fund to initiate work. The estimated costs for the installation of an onsite extraction system is between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

Deems Padgett, TRC Environmental Consultants, stated that a draft air sparging/soil vapor extraction (SVE) pilot study and associated work plan, approximately 50% complete, was recently submitted to Regional Board staff. A final version of the work plan should be submitted in two weeks.

Robert Perdue reported that he and Karen O'Haire, Esq., spoke with the Special Master, who requested that the Board postpone issuing a Time Schedule Order (TSO) for the site.

Robert Perdue also stated that, if necessary, a TSO may be recommended at the January 17, 2001 Board Meeting.

#### **10. Reportable Violations of the California Water Code**

The next quarterly report will be given at the January 2001 Board Meeting.

#### **11. Informational Update on State Board Activities**

Karen O'Haire reported that the Draft Revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy will be released for public review on Friday, November 10, 2000. There will be a hearing on January 9, 2001.

#### **12. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report**

Phil Gruenberg reported that December 15, 2000, is the due date for comments on the Draft Revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy. Region 7 comments have already been submitted on the draft policy.

Mr. Gruenberg presented an overview, including photos, of a Mexicali bi-national tour conducted October 26, 2000, in which he participated. Also, he reported that prior to the Mexicali tour, Art Baggett and Pete Silva (State Board Members), Tom Hannigan (Director of Department of Water Resources), and Robert Hight (Director of Department of Fish and Game) visited Imperial Valley to investigate border pollution issues during which Jose Angel and Mr. Gruenberg presented a briefing on New River/Mexicali pollution issues.

In addition, Mr. Gruenberg reported that several Salton Sea restoration demonstration projects have been received. Regional Board staff will review such projects on a case-by-case basis to decide if WDRs are warranted.

#### **13. Regional Board Staff Reports**

Abdi Haile reported on the presence of gasoline contamination in the soil and ground water at a gas station site located at 13900 Palm Drive, Desert Hot Springs. This site contains elevated MTBE concentrations, with an estimated total mass of 5,000 lbs. MTBE is classified by the federal government as a possible carcinogen and poses a serious threat to ground water quality.

Liann Chavez gave a progress report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) to reduce the salinity of the Salton Sea. Currently, the BOR and SSA are testing the efficacy of several enhanced evaporation systems at the former Salton Sea Naval Test Base. The proposed design of the catchment ponds was discussed. The BOR and SSA proposal involves a three phase approach: a 700 hour pretest with a one month duration, a pilot test with a six month duration, and a demonstration test with a maximum duration of two years.

Charles Springer reported that nitrate concentrations exceeding California Drinking Water Standards (45 mg/L) are present in the ground water in Yucca Valley and have resulted in four major potable water supply wells becoming unusable. Due to the absence of wastewater treatment facilities, the community disposes of municipal wastewater via septic systems. The improper maintenance and density of septic systems in the area are suspected sources of ground water contamination. Regional Board staff presented a potential three phase mitigation approach to Hi-Desert Water District and community representatives: educating community leaders and residents about the need to protect ground water quality; adopting of a town ordinance requiring all commercial business to monitor and pump septic systems on an annual basis; and limiting the density of single-family equivalent dwelling units per acre through a basin plan amendment.

Rex Sharp reported that the City of Westmorland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is making progress toward compliance with Time Schedule Order No. 99-074 and that a ground breaking ceremony was held on October 27, 2000.

John Carmona reported that the Salton Community Services District has one final project to complete before they will be in full compliance with ACLC No. 97-126.

#### **14. Chair's Report**

Michael Smith reported that Ms. Wright, Ms. Andreas, Ms. Soulliere, and he attended the WQCC meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.